

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A personalized video-on-demand system and method utilizes an array of hard disk drives or other storage media to create a video server farm having the enormous capacity necessary for a video content library. A content feed supplies video content to the inventive device via a variety of communication media. Utilizing the device, the content stream may be directly viewed, decoded/decrypted or recorded in the video server farm. A multiple receiver/tuner can receive multiple content streams and the system may simultaneously record a plurality of programs on a storage device. With a multiple display unit such as a picture-in-picture television, the consumer can view desired programs in the normal manner while the device aggregates a video library in the background. An electronic program guide aids in the content selection and recording. Scheduling conflicts are resolved by simultaneous, multiple recording methods. The content provider may also add tags to the video content which contain information associated with the content such as actors, director, synopsis, keywords. By utilizing selection criteria, the electronic program guide can access these tags to determine desired content for the video library. Furthermore, audio and/or data may be aggregated by the invention for on-demand playback or manipulation. A file manager assists in the creation of a database of recorded content. The file manager enables manipulation of the database including the addition and delete of entries, the annotation of entries, and searching based on information contained in the entries. A printer may also be utilized to print physical labels, which may be secured to individual storage media.